5-20-15

The Valley Star

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT MEDIA OUTLET OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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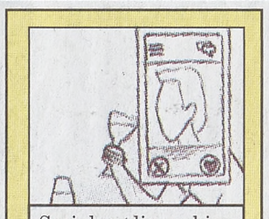
They're back, pitches.. but not perfect
Valley Life



Social media making dating anti-social?
Opinion

Road Warriors coming home at season's end
Sports

SHINING THROUGH THE DARK

ALVIN CUADRA/VALLEY STAR

GRACEFUL - Ballet dancer Christie Baarns elegantly makes her way on stage for the opening of "Going Home," in a segment of "Making Waves," a show produced by Valley's Dance Program which premiered May 14 at the Main Stage in the Arts Department.

NEWS

Campus Crime

■Sexual assault reported by female student

BY KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On May 4, at around 8 a.m., a female student was a victim of sexual battery in the Library Academic and Resource Center (LARC) Building.

"[The victim] received a standard text from a classmate to meet in the LARC Building," said Deputy Dennis Marmelejo. "As far as we know, the text was nothing out of the ordinary and it was nothing threatening. They were friends and current classmates, it was not a stranger."

According to the victim, when she arrived, the suspect forced her touch him

see ASSAULT page 2

■Grant student victim of hate crime

BY KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A Ulysses S. Grant student was the victim of a hate-related aggravated assault at around 3:30 p.m. on May 12 in the Coldwater Extension Parking Lot at Valley College.

The victim, an African American male, was physically assaulted by a group of approximately 10-15 suspects, described as Armenian. Prior to the assault, the victim was being subjected to racial slurs and threats from the group of suspects.

"What makes this crime a hate

see HATE page 2

VALLEY LIFELINE

Book em, Monarchs

■Valley's bookstore offers buy-back services for Monarchs to return used books.

BY AMANDA CAVARRETTA
COPY EDITOR

Finals can bring students sweaty palms and anxiety, but it can also bring them cold-hard cash.

Every semester Valley College offers a book buyback program during finals week. However, there are limitations to the texts the college will purchase. Titles need to be on the bookstore list, which means there is a high demand for the text. In addition, they will not buy loose leaf workbooks. Valley contracts a independent wholesale buyer to purchase some of the books not on Valley's list.

"He will buy it for wholesale, but that price is usually lower than what we would offer," said Assistant Bookstore Manager Mary S. John. "We wish we were able to buy everything back to help the students."

Buyback dates are set for June 1 to June 4 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday, June 5 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The final buyback day is June 8, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If neither the college nor the wholesaler will purchase students' textbooks during finals, there are other alternatives.

For Monarchs currently using "Essentials of the Living World," by George Johnson in Biology 3, Textbooks.com offers $36.50 for the textbook (free shipping). An alternative is going to Woodland Text, where they offer $30.

A popular book used in English 101, "Reading For Writers," by Jo Ray

see BOOKS page 2

For additional content please visit:
www.thevalleystar.com

VALLEY COLLEGE EVENTS

■ CSUN is holding a Peer Mentor workshop at the Career/Transfer Center (CTC) today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ ASU is organizing a campus-clean-up today from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

■ The Valley Music Department is presenting "LAVC Small Combos Concert" (part of the Spring 2015 Free Wednesday Concert Series) in the Music Recital Hall at 1 p.m.

■ An "Undecided Major" workshop will be held in the Career/Transfer Center (CTC) tomorrow from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

■ The Art Gallery is debuting their "2015 Student Art Show" Exhibition tomorrow from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

■ The Music Department is hosting a "Guitar Ensemble" Friday at 8 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall.

NEWS

Gay-Straight Alliance assembles

■ Members of the GSA come together for a "healing circle" last week in front of the Music Building.

BY SARA ALMALLA
STAFF WRITER

This Monday, the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) club held their first healing circle meeting. Club members and friends got together on the grassy field behind the music building to discuss stress and their coping strategies.

A healing circle is essentially just a group therapy session, in which anyone can ask for and give advice as well as simply discussing current situations that may be affecting people in the group.

GSA President Victoria Alvarado planned this event after attending a healing circle. Alvarado thinks events like these are important, "especially within a community that deals with a lot of problems in every day life, you know? It's an oppressed group. Plus, it's pre-finals time so I thought this was a good time to let some positivity in their lives. Let them feel heard and let them know there are people who support them."

see HEALING page 2

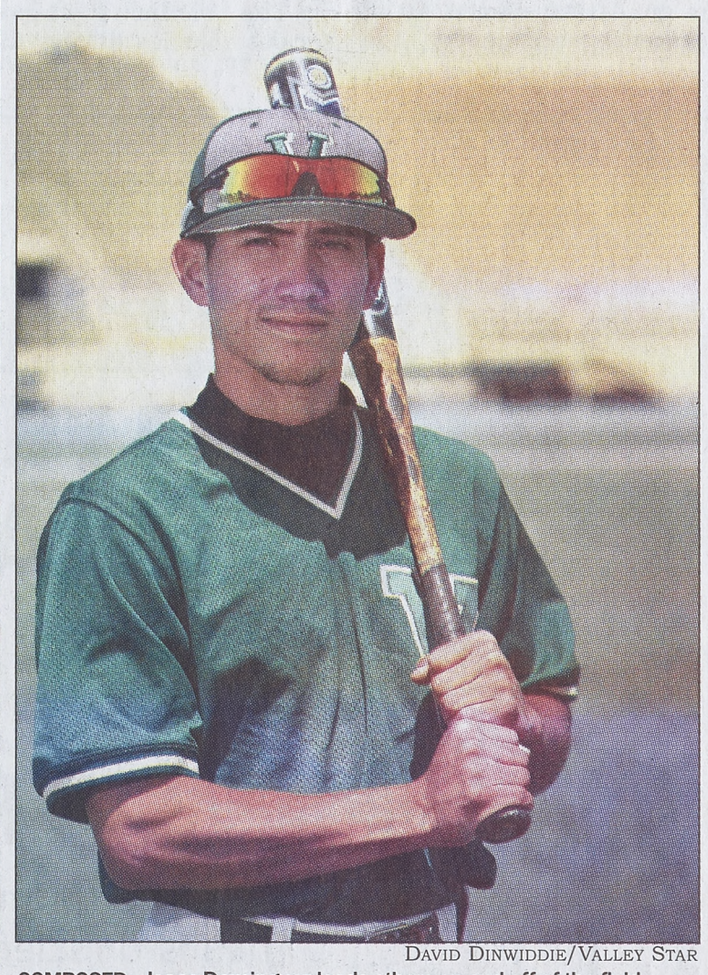
ALVIN CUADRA/VALLEY STAR

WELL-ROUNDED - Ten members of the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) Club met in the lawn in front of the Music Building last week for a comfortable therapy session to discuss common issues.

BASEBALL

Fielding the possibilities

■ Shortstop setting new heights for his family.



DAVID DINWIDDIE/VALLEY STAR

COMPOSED - Isaac Dominguez leads others on and off of the field.

BY JORGE BELON
MANAGING EDITOR

Isaac Dominguez wants to pave new roads for his family. Baseball is his tool to get the job done.

The sophomore shortstop is on the verge of transferring from Valley College to a four-year university with a major in special education.

"I love baseball and I want to play in the MLB. That has always been my number-one dream," said the 20-year-old Pacoima native. "But I want to get my college degree first. I want to be the first person in my family to finish college and lead the way for my younger siblings and cousins to follow my footsteps and do better than me."

Dominguez led the team with 121 assist and had a .950 fielding percentage. He finished second in the team with 39 hits. He was quick on his feet with nine stolen bases, which was the team's third best. His numbers are not flashy, but the shortstop refuses to relay solely on his athletic ability. Dominguez instead channels his favorite player, Derek Jeter, as a defensive general. He prefers the smart play over the highlight-reel. Valley Head Coach Dave Mallas

see PROFILE page 5

NEWS

'Healing'

continued from page 1

Several students brought mats and blankets to lie out on the grass and form a misshapen circle. Water, Capri Suns, and emergency tissues were placed in the middle of the circle in preparation. As an icebreaker, everyone introduced themselves by stating their name, preferred gender pronouns, and what they did that weekend.

In lieu of the upcoming finals, the topics circled around dealing with stress. For the duration of the hourlong meeting, students talked about different coping mechanisms, what they found worked, what did not and possible triggers of stress and anxiety.

Several students talked about how they often found that they would turn to cleaning and organizing things when they were feeling overwhelmed and stressed, because it helped them feel in control of their lives. They noted that this was only a temporary solution and the stress would return when they ran out of things to organize. A few others offered their own stress coping mechanisms, such as writing down what they need to do or simply how they are feeling.

A few GSA students from Pierce community college attended the event as well.

"Despite how one identifies themselves, whether it's gender or orientation, everyone deals with stress and what life throws at them," said Alvarado, "so I thought it was just fitting to have a healing circle for everyone. Anyone who wants to join, not only to support other people in the LGBT, but to show their support as allies as well."

Alvarado hopes to make the healing circle a semester event. Currently, the GSA club meets once a week, every Monday in the Foreign Language building, room 112 at 1:30 pm.

ALVIN CUADRA/VALLEY STAR

THERAPEUTIC - Victoria Alvarez, President of the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), enjoys snacks while conversing with members.

'Assault'

continued from page 1

through his underwear, prompting her to immediately pull her hand away and leave the building. She reported the incident to the Valley Sheriff's Office on May 7, three days after the assault.

"The victim gave us the name of the suspect, so he has been identified," said Marmelejo. "As of now, the case is being investigated and it is in [Det. Regina Yost of the LAPD's] hands."

Marmelejo stated that a case such as this magnitude in the district are immediately taken on by Det. Yost of the Community College Bureau, which is centered at Los Angeles City College.

The Valley Sheriff's Station is encouraging those on campus to remain aware of their surroundings at all times and of any suspicious activity that may be nearby. Any Monarchs who have additional information regarding this incident, or similar incidents, should immediately contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

The Sheriffs on campus can be reached at (818) 947-2911, or by an Emergency Call Box. In an emergency, students, faculty, staff, or guests can also dial 2911 from any campus phone to reach the Sheriff's Office.

'Books'

continued from page 1

McCuen, Chegg.com will buy it for $62.62 and ValoreBooks.com will give students $57.17. Both websites provide free shipping.

Another core book used by Monarchs in Chicano Studies is "Chicano Labyrinth of Solitude," written by Enrique Orozco. TextbookRecycling.com pays $14.21 and Chegg.com can give $6.96 for the book (free shipping).

Some teachers require students to purchase a customized book. Books used in Astronomy 101, Environmental Science 1, and Math 125 usually can't be bought back through any buyer.

"If [teachers] choose a binder packet, those are considered a customized package. [To sell them back] they have to have all components in them," said John. "We can't buy loose leaf books because we don't know what pages are missing. It's a one-time use type of thing. I don't know that we can buy the pieces separately."

There is a bulletin board located in Monarch Hall where students post flyers advertising the books they are selling. Most flyers include: title of the book, author, edition, asking price and contact number.

"I'm actually a nerd and don't sell any of my books," said Ashley Shore, philosophy major. "So I make sure I buy new editions so there's no highlighting in them.

'Hate'

continued from page 1

crime is that the young man is an African American of descent, and during the assault, the assaultants were yelling racial slurs, prior to and during the assault," Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Harry Van told ABC7 News.

The victim sustained serious injuries during the assault and was hospitalized as a result.

Despite numerous attempts made by The Valley Star to contact, and speak with the Valley Sheriff's Station, no further information has been provided.

NEWS BRIEFS

- The Los Angeles City Council agreed to gradually increase the city's minimum wage, with the plan being for it to peak at $15 an hour on July 1, 2020.
- Nine people are dead, and 170 more arrested after a fight broke out among rival biker gangs on Sunday in Wako, Texas. McLennan County Sheriff Parnell McNamara said a bond was set at $1 million for each suspect taken into custody, according to CNN.com.
- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) says that four cancer charities run by extended members of the same family conned donors out of $187 million from 2008 through 2012 and little to nothing was used to actually aid cancer patients.

Please join us!

ANNABELLE'S PLAY DAY – LEARN THROUGH PLAY

May 16th, 2015
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

19th Annabelle Godwin Play Day

FREE Family Event

This **community event** offers exciting activities including story time, hands-on science, art & learning activities, games, and so much more!

¡Este **evento comunitario** ofrece actividades excitantes que incluyen lectura de cuentos, actividades de ciencia, juegos, actividades de arte y aprendizaje y mucho más!

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Reptiles Exhibit
Raffle Prizes
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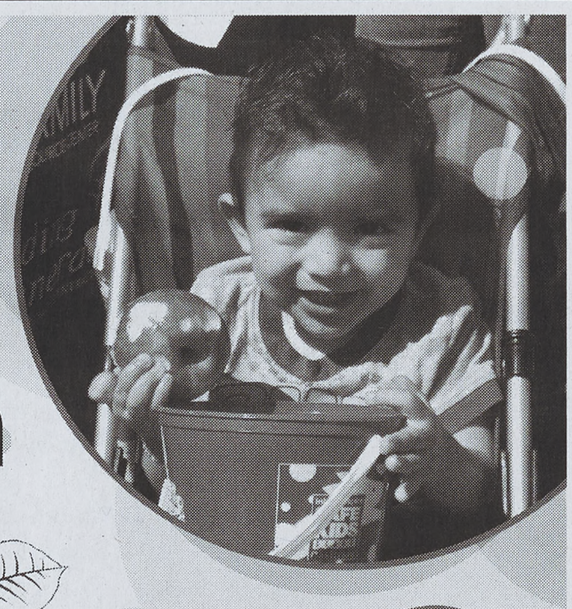

Each child will go home with a **FREE BOOK!** & families will receive a bag of fresh fruits and vegetables - while supplies last !

Made possible with funding from First 5 LA through the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

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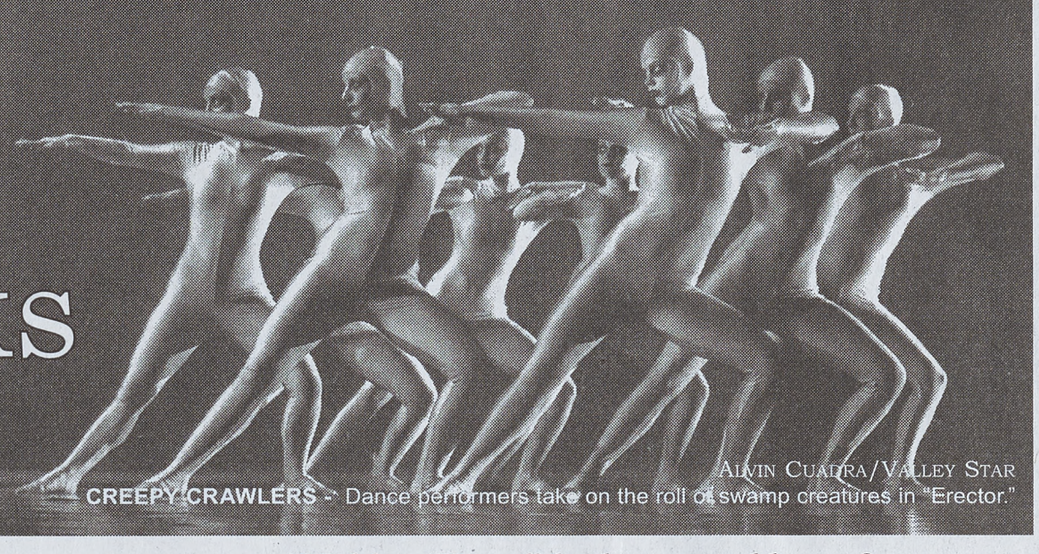
PERFORMING ARTS

"Making Waves" had its peaks



ALVIN CUAHRA/VALLEY STAR

CREEPY CRAWLERS - Dance performers take on the roll of swamp creatures in "Erector."

■ From interpretive to contemporary, "Making Waves" had memorable performances.

BY ZAIDA DIAZ
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

It was a full house last weekend at Valley's Main Stage Theater, as patrons prepared to watch the two-act dance production titled "Making Waves."

Sponsored by Valley's Dance Program, the production consisted of six sets per act, each distinct from the next.

In the opening piece, "Her," a group of eleven beautiful ladies owned the stage; the purple backdrop and yellow lighting emphasized the dancers. They began by gesturing in unison, slowly moving their hips from left to right to a harmonic and Afro-infused tune of Zap Mama. As the piece progressed it appeared, as if one of the dancers wanted to break away from the pack, but the women dressed in neon-colored animal print were resistant. The performance seemed to represent a woman's struggle for individualism, however there were also moments that celebrated unity.

Perhaps one the most crowd-pleasing was the solo piece "Blank Canvas," choreographed and performed by Lorena Chavez, a sociology major. She wore a white skin-tight garment, which made it easier to see all the different forms Chavez composed with her body; she resembled a moving work of art. To finish her set, she dabbed paint powder on the side of her face and released handfuls of the powder into the air, making the performance come full circle.

Immediately after her set, audience members cheered and a proud parent burst out saying, "Isn't she fantastic?" Someone from the audience replied, "She was great!"

Act I concluded with "Erector," a peculiar piece that began with two dancers in crawling tunnels slithering on stage like caterpillars only to later come out from them and have other dancers dressed in form-fitting one piece suits join them on stage. They began positioning themselves in ways that resemble other critters. The manifestation – an enchanting garden with interesting transitions.

After a short intermission, Act II spiced things up with a little Latin flavor in a rendition of "La Yi Yi Yi." The dance followed a woman who falls in love with a man, who ends up breaking her heart after his rejection. At one point, a short black and white clip was projected on the big screen to show none other than La Lupe singing "El Carbonero."

"The Alice" marked another high point, as solo act Toby Marks (performer and choreographer of the set) exhibited an exceptional interpretation of Alice from the infamous Disney movie. Here, Marks exposes a "mad" Alice through a ballet style dance performance. During moments where the audience heard the sound of a clock ticking, Marks pointed her toes and used her body to imitate the hands of a clock.

The two-hour program aimed to finish on a high-note with a hip-hop number, "Keep On Dancing," that consisted of upbeat songs like Mark Ronson's popular "Uptown Funk."

For more information about Valley's Dance Program visit www.lavc.edu/dance.

MOVIE REVIEW

Slightly off "Pitch"

■ "Pitch Perfect" sequel good but not exactly aca-awesome.

BY SARA ALMALLA
STAFF WRITER

The first "Pitch Perfect" movie was what is known as a sleeper hit. Nobody expected a musical-esque movie to be such a huge success.

Unfortunately, "Pitch Perfect 2" was a bit of an overshot. After winning nationals in the first movie, the girls are seen performing for President Obama in the beginning of the second film. Their success is short lived, however, as a huge blunder gets them kicked out of all upcoming a cappella events except the international competition, which they now must win in order to regain their prestige- despite no American team having ever won. Meanwhile, the main character Becca (Anna Kendrick) is trying to find her calling outside of college.

While the hilarious and witty antics from the first movie seemed to transfer to the second fairly well, the plot didn't so much.

It seems that this movie focused more on the comedic aspects rather than the plot and the result was a messy storyline. There were at least three subplots and the constant jumping between the storylines meant little to no character evolution.

Hailee Steinfeld, who played the fresh-faced and enthusiastic freshman Emily, appeared more awkward than sweet or cute. Emily seemed at first to be one of the new main characters, but her entire purpose was essentially just to progress the story. Even her love interest seemed to have more development than she did.

However, Becca's subplot was the most interesting. Her internship with a spastic music producer is one of few genuinely funny storylines in the movie.

In terms of comedy, while it seemed to hit the mark for the most part, there was some significant over-shooting, especially with the lesbian innuendos. While the first film had contained some significant homoerotic subtext, this sequel overdid it—assumedly it was ironically, but it just seemed cheesy.

Meanwhile, hilarious Fat Amy (Rebel Wilson) was the saving grace in terms of comedic relief-- "They're going to look at us, team USA, and be like, 'why is the most talented one Australian?'"

A close second were the commentators, John (John Michael Higgins) and Gail (Elizabeth Banks- who also wrote and directed this movie) and their hysterically inappropriate remarks.

The soundtrack was authentic. While the mash-ups in this movie did not measure up to those of the first movie, they did approach it in a more original direction. The riff-off was arguably the best scene of the film, featuring several humorous celebrity cameos.

It's difficult not to compare this sequel to the original film because of the high expectations the first had set. While "Pitch Perfect 2" was slightly over ambitious and messy, it still managed to encompass the essence of the series.

3 stars (out of 5)
"Pitch Perfect 2" opens in theatres now
Rated PG-13 (for innuendo and language)

For additional content please visit: www.thevalleystar.com

RICHARD CARTWRIGHT/UNIVERSAL PICTURES

THEY FIND THEIR SOUND - The Barden Bellas sing "Flash Light" in the international competition.

WHAT'S UP

Quality & variety of "colours"

■ Huge color payoff for a small price.

BY MONESSA CHAHAYED
ONLINE EDITOR

An affordable online-makeup company with quality lipsticks based in Los Angeles seems to have come out of nowhere.

Each of Colourpop's "Lippie Stix" costs only $5 and every shade has a $5 lip pencil to match. The online shop offers free shipping after spending $30. In addition to the lipsticks being cheaper than not only high-end but also drugstore brands, they smell and feel great on the lips. All finishes, even matte, are not drying and have a subtle vanilla scent.

The cruelty-free company has created colors to fit any skin tone with different finishes such as: matte, satin and glossy. Every lipstick's page has a photo of swatches on 2-3 different skin tones, which is helpful before committing to a color.

Many of the shades happen to be dupes for more expensive lipsticks such as Lumiere, which compares to NARS' Anna ($32). Colourpop may not last as long as high-end lipstick products, but are just as opaque and creamy.

COLOURPOP

SWATCHES - The company swatches each shade on women of different ethnicities.

For the full story, please visit: www.thevalleystar.com

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OPINION

Belichick must face inflated penalties for Deflategate

■ The New England Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick deserves a severe punishment for another cheating scandal.

BY KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"Ignorance is not an excuse" is what National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell told the New Orleans Saints in 2012 after dropping the hammer on the franchise for their "Bountygate" scandal.

If it wasn't an excuse then, it should not be one now for the New England Deflatriots -- sorry, Patriots -- as well as for their Head Coach Bill Belichick. The franchise was penalized their 2016 first-round pick, 2017 fourth-round pick, fined $1 million, while quarterback Tom Brady was suspended four games, for their role in deflating footballs before the start of January's AFC Championship Game vs. the Indianapolis Colts.

But why in the world was super hands-on, meticulous Belichick not suspended?

When originally questioned about the scandal in January, the ever-so-candid Bill Belichick, in his best Ben Stein "Dry Eyed?" expression, flatly denied any knowledge of the alleged wrongdoings.

However, prominent criminal attorney Theodore "Ted" Wells and his team of investigators released a 139-page report stating, "It is more probable than not that New England Patriots personnel participated in violations of the Playing Rules and were involved in a deliberate effort to circumvent the rules. In particular, we have concluded that it is more probable than not that Jim McNally, (the Official Locker Room attendant for the Patriots) and John Jastremski (an equipment assistant for the Patriots) participated in a deliberate effort to release air from Patriots game balls after the balls were examined by the referees. Based on the evidence, it also is our view that it is more probable than not that Tom Brady (the quarterback for the Patriots) was at least generally aware of the inappropriate activities of McNally and Jastremski involving the release of air from Patriots game balls."

Goodell rightfully dropped a Thor-like hammer on the entire franchise, but once again, Bill Belicheat somehow slithered his way out of any suspensions, as he did nearly a decade ago when his team was doing the usual -- cheating.

In 2007, the Patriots were accused of videotaping the New York Jets' defensive signals during their Week 1 matchup. After NFL Security began its investigation by confiscating the video camera that was being used by a Patriots video assistant to record the signals, the ever-so-sincere Belichick issued a statement two days later to apologize "to everyone who has been affected."

This was after an NFL memo in 2006 to warn all teams about videotaping opponents' sidelines and signals – which in essence, disqualified ignorance as an excuse. The Patriots were fined an eye-popping $750,000 by the league. They were also stripped of their 2008 first-round draft selection.

But wait, there's more!

Just five months later, an unnamed source claimed a New England Patriots employee secretly videotaped the St. Louis Rams' pre-game walk-through ... on the night before Super Bowl XXXVI in 2002. Matt Walsh, a former Patriots video assistant, said he had more information incriminating the Patriots in such acts. He backed it up: he sent the NFL eight tapes of five opponents' play-calling signals in six games, spanning from 2000 to 2002.

"Now twice under Bill Belichick, and possibly a third time, they've cheated and given themselves an advantage," said former Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman to a Dallas radio station. "To me, the punishment for the Patriots and/or Bill Belichick has to be more severe than what the punishment was for the New Orleans Saints. ... Sean Payton did not cheat. There was nothing that Sean Payton and the Saints did that was illegal. And they did not give themselves a competitive edge."

Now, how much did deflated footballs help New England blow out the Colts in the AFC Championship Game, 45-7? Possibly not much, but the obvious intent under Coach Belichick to cheat is the key, not the outcome of the cheating. Besides, football is largely a game of confidence and momentum. Did

see NFL page 5

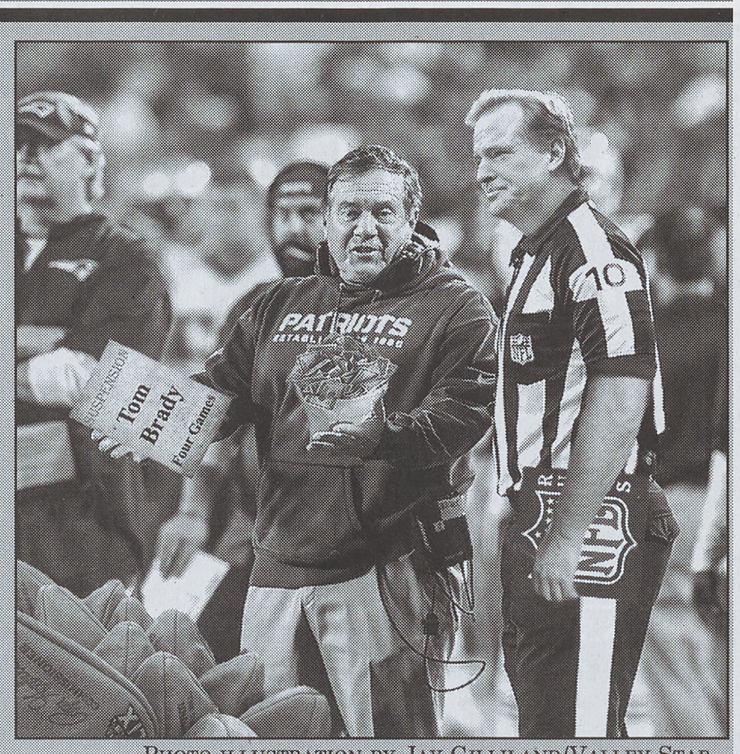


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JAY GILLILAND/VALLEY STAR
THE NEW ENGLAND PAY-TRIOTS - Head Coach Bill Belichick and the rest of the organization should pay a hefty fee for their third strike.

Has dating died due to social media

■ Social media claims to connect us, so why are we so disconnected.

BY MIKAYLA FOSS
STAFF WRITER

If you didn't change your relationship status on Facebook are you actually in a relationship?

"Founded in 2004, Facebook's mission is to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected. People use Facebook to stay connected with friends and family, to discover what's going on in the world, and to share and express what matters to them," according to Facebook's public mission statement.

Since Mark Zuckerberg launched Facebook, there are now 1.44 billion monthly active users, according to the 2015 Facebook First Quarter Report.

Social media connects us with people we don't have the luxury of regularly seeing in person, but what about the people standing in front of us? With our eyes always glued to a screen and our minds always thinking about what to post, we miss out on the present moment. We no longer experience life for the moment; we experience it for the picture that will get the most "likes."

New relationships are exciting. We want to share with our friends how happy we are and all the cool things we are doing. But broadcasting our relationships on social media takes away the privacy factor. If everything we do is posted to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat, what's personal to the relationship?

The truth is, what we post is an edited, filtered version of our own reality. We want to build a positive reputation for ourselves by making our lives seem better than they actually are. We post about an amazing date we went on, or about that one time our significant other bought us flowers.

It's almost impossible to not compare our relationships with the ones we see around us. We see the highs more than the lows. We see people at their best, not their worst. Always seeing what everyone else wants us to see can be deceiving, and can make us question how great our own relationships truly are.

In 2012, Anxiety UK conducted a survey on social media use and its effects on emotions. Published in Medical News Today, the survey found that 53% of participants said social media sites had changed their behavior, while 51% of these said the change had been negative. Those who said their lives had been worsened by using social media also reported feeling less confident in their personal achievements in comparison to their friends.

"This problem has definitely gained recent attention," Dr. Shannon M. Rauch, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Benedictine University told Medical News Today. "We know that many people on social media sites often present idealized versions of their lives, leading others to make upward social comparisons, which can lead to negative emotions."

Texting is a great way to miscommunicate how we feel and misinterpret what other people mean. Although instant messaging can be extremely useful for relaying information and making plans, words in writing can be taken out of context.

Without being able to hear the inflection in someone's voice or see the expression on their face, it's hard to know exactly how they are feeling. There's no emoji for "My feelings for you are complex; I'm very attracted to you and want to kill you sometimes, but I'm not ready to end this relationship."

This can lead to more misunderstandings and arguments within relationships. If all we had was face-to-face contact, a lot of these problems would not arise.

The Los Angeles Times published a study, led by Thomas V. Pollet of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, examining 117 people age 18 to 63. They filled out an extensive questionnaire about the time they spend on instant messaging and social network sites, the number of relationships they had overall and the closeness of those relationships.

The study reported that, "spending a lot of time online was not linked to having a larger number of 'offline' friends. Moreover, the relationships of people who socialized online weren't any closer or stronger than people who didn't socialize online."

So ask someone on a date that you met on campus, not on Tinder.Turn off the phone and take in all of the beauty and resist the urge to post a picture of it on Instagram. Write family members a letter and send it in the mail instead of sharing a link to their Facebook wall. Drive over to a best friend's house and ask them about their day. More physical contact will strengthen any relationships.

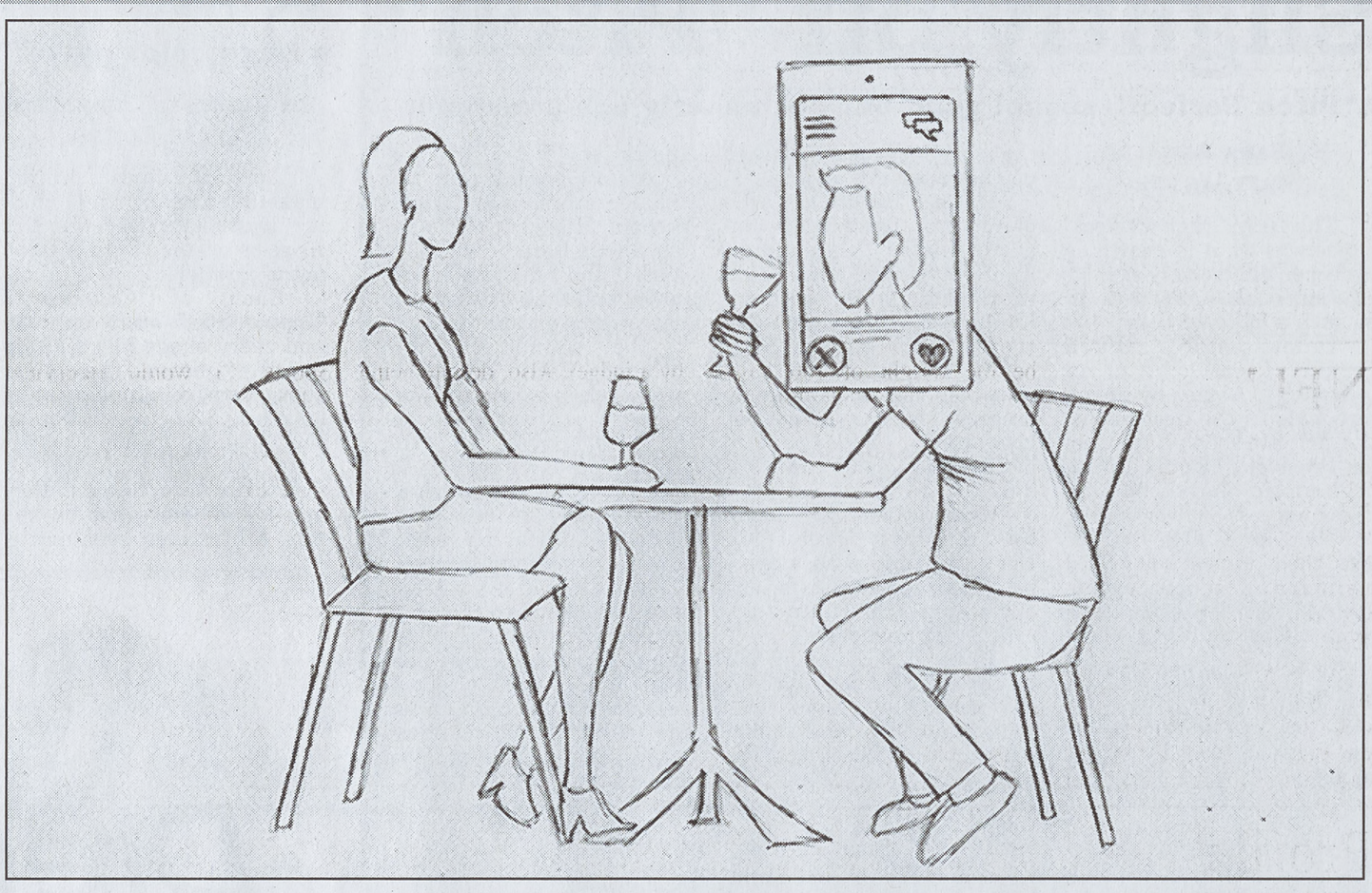


ILLUSTRATION BY SARA ALMALLA/VALLEY STAR
MAYBE YES OR NO- Without Facebook, Instagram and Tinder people would struggle to meet new people beyond their immediate family.

CampusView *Does social media affect the world of dating?*

PHOTOS BY ARIANE AZAR, VALLEY STAR

"I think it's useful. you can communicate with anyone and it helps with the distance."

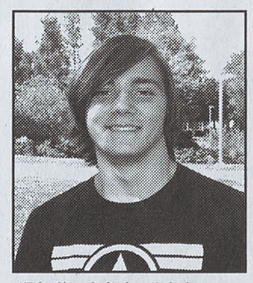
ANA GUEVARA, PSYCHOLOGY

"I think it hurts, because it can cause problems between relationships and it let's people stalk their significant others, or their exs or whatever."

JENNIFER ROSE, BIO-CHEM

"I definetly think that social media does hurt dating. Especially when they start looking through their significant others' history."

ERICK ORANTES, COMPUTER SCIENCE



"I belive it helps.It brings people together. Like on Facebook you can find your old crushes from middle school and reconnect, and even helps to communicate with them long distance."

KYLE CASTILLO, MUSIC

"I find that it helps. I mean three of my old high school teachers met on a dating site and now they're getting married"

SIYAR KHAYDAR, ECONOMICS

BASEBALL

Road warriors mad but not furious

■ Playing without a home field all year, the Monarchs fell just short of the playoffs.

BY JORGE BELON
MANAGING EDITOR

As the dust settles on the odyssey that was Valley College's baseball season, a clear picture is left for Head Coach Dave Mallas to put the season in perspective.

An entire season spent on the road due to the construction of the new field on campus resulted in 1,263.2 miles in their little white vans. However, the road warriors had their highest win total (19-16-1) since 2012 ,when they finished 20-19 and second in the Western State Conference South Division. Those 19 wins were still not enough to end the five-year post-season dry spell.

"I told them at the ending of the year that no one expected much from us because the challenges were so great," said Mallas. "We practiced on the football field for the entire year for starters. I am very proud of this group and I will always remember this special group."

In the first two months, the men in green got off to a decent start with a 6-5-1 record. In March, the Monarchs caught fire, winning 9 of 13. They enjoyed a five-game winning streak in the process and also won four games by six runs or more.

They entered the final month of the season in second place and well on their way to the playoffs at 15-9-1.

After a slow 2-3 start in April, they finished the season going 2-4 in their final six contests and lost three one run games - twice to eventual division champs Glendale Community College.

"I firmly believe this team should of made the playoffs," said Mallas. "It is very disappointing that we did not make the postseason. We had a very strong sophomore class which led our very talented freshmen. I think we would of gone far in the playoffs."

When the team had the rare chance to make some playoff noise, their bats went silent.

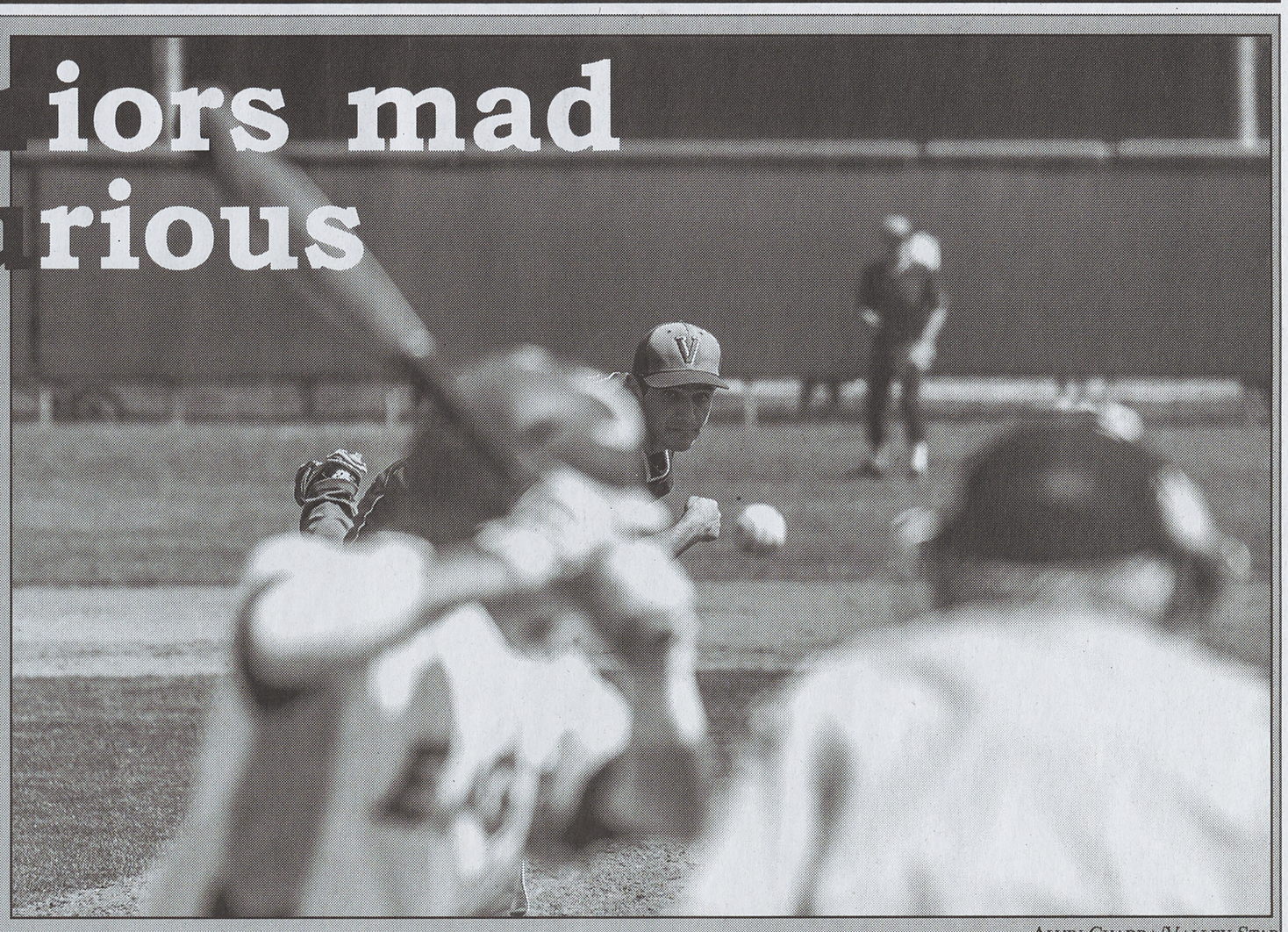
In April, Valley scored 40 runs in 11 games after scoring 80 in March in 13 games. In their five-game winning streak, they had plated more runs than the entire month of April.

The defense and pitching were solid throughout the entire season, but began to break down in the final 11 games, allowing 55 runs. That was the first time during the whole season that the Monarchs gave up more runs then scored.

"We didn't make enough good pitches. We didn't make enough defensive plays. We didn't have the timely hitting that we had going into [April]," said Mallas, who refuses to blame the endless road trip for magnifying their fatigue. "People on the outside might think we were just tired, but from within the programs there is no excuses for the coaches or the players."

The 11-year head coach is proud but frustrated at the same time that this team did not make the playoffs after overcoming so many hurdles. However, 2016 could find Mallas in Wonderland.

"I thought we had a very successful season. Our sophomores were tremendous. As for our freshmen, they saw how close we were. If they are ready when they return, then we will break in the new stadium with a successful year."



ALVIN CUADRA/VALLEY STAR

ANOTHER VICTORY- Freshman Valley pitcher Graham Mekjian guides Monarchs to 11-4 victory against Mission College at El Cariso Regional Park on March 21, 2015.

'NFL'

continued from page 4

Brady gain extra confidence by knowing he was using balls illegally modified to his specifications? Once the team got rolling in part due to the use of those balls, did it start a snowball effect?

So now the question is, how heavy should have the Deflategate punishments for the New England Must Pay-triots' Head Coach been? Should it be the weight of 100 Vince Wilforks in one-dollar bills?

The benchmark for Belichick's punishment should have at least be a full season of suspension. That's what Saints Head Coach Sean Payton got, and the Saints have nowhere near the Patriots' history of sociopathic behavior. Jonathan Vilma, the alleged ring-leader of the Bountygate was also suspended an entire season by Goodell (though he was reinstated in September 2012, when his suspension was overturned by a judge). Also, despite being incriminated by the league, the Saints, Payton, and Vilma, fully cooperated with the investigation three years ago. That currently has not been the case with the Patriots.

Wells said that the Patriots refused to make McNally available to be interviewed for a second time, in which he said would have been "crucial" to the investigation.

"I asked for a second interview, I said I would go to New Hampshire," Wells told NBC Sports. "I would interview [McNally] in the morning, afternoon night, I would do it whenever he was free. And they said not only could I not interview him, they wouldn't even tell him of my request for an interview."

Wells added that Brady also did not fully cooperate as he refused to allow Wells to review his phone for potential evidence.

"I told Mr. Brady and his agents I was willing to not take possession of the phone," Wells continued. "I don't want to see any private communications, I said, 'You keep the phone, you give me documents that are responsive to this investigation and I will take your word for it,' and they still refused."

The franchise, headed by Belichick, feels like they are above the law and above the NFL's prestigious shield, evidenced by the team's continued cheating. How many of their four championships have come as a direct result of their cheating? Shouldn't there be some kind of three strikes rule in the NFL?

"My No. 1 job is protecting the integrity of the game," said Goodell in a press conference in New York City last October, and when the cacophonous laughter in the room died down 10 minutes later, he added, "I will not relent on that."

As history has told us, the Patriots will somehow find a way to cheat again -- and get caught. Lets hope next time, that the Bill, the cheat, is the one to pay the heavy price.

'Profile'

continued from page 1

believes the shortstop has just begun to hit his stride.

"Dominguez is solid on defense; his ability to react to plays because of how well he positions himself and his quickness," said Mallas. "He has a very high IQ for the game which aids his athletic abilities. I firmly believe that on any given game between both teams he has the highest IQ on the field. He is just a complete game changer and because of that it is going to be very hard to replace him."

The oldest of five siblings, Dominguez was forced to grow up fast with so many faces looking up to him. But it was his exposure to his mother's work that shaped his perspective.

His mother, Paula Ledesma, was a teaching assistant for children with special needs. Without a babysitter, 9-year-old Dominguez sometimes tagged along . Trips such as these, in which he interacted with kids with conditions such as autism and Down syndrome, sped up his growing process and he realized how beautiful yet how harsh life could be.

"I remember I use to play with [the kids] all the time. I never saw the kids differently," said Dominguez. "As I grew older, I started to realize that the kids didn't have the same opportunities in life as I would. I wanted to help and change that. I knew that I wanted to be a teacher or a coach for the kids- anything to give them a reason to smile."

Dominguez is already the first in his family to finish high school, graduating from San Fernando Senior High in 2012.

Dominguez got started in baseball playing traditional Sunday games with his family at 4. He played primarily center field throughout Little League. When he got to high school, however, he had to change his plan.

"I remember going to the [high school] tryouts and seeing four-to-six players trying out for center field and they were good and tall," said the 5-foot-7 Dominguez. "Then I looked at the shortstop position, and I saw that there was only three, so I went for it. I wanted to make the team."

The decision paid off as he made the junior varsity. Two weeks later his coaches promoted him to varsity as a starter. He went on to help the San Fernando Tigers win the City Section Division I championship his senior year by defeating Los Angeles Cathedral High School 3-2 at Dodger Stadium.

He realized baseball could help him earn his degree and Dominguez was accepted to play baseball at William Penn University in Iowa. However, he ended up returning before the semester began and looking for another school to pursue his dreams.

His former travel league coach pointed Dominguez in the direction of the Monarchs.

"I had never considered Valley before, but he told me that I had a good chance of growing there," said the shortstop. "I came here in the fall of 2012 and it turned out to be one of the best decisions I've ever made. Under Coach [Dave] Mallas, I have become a student of not just the game but of life."

Dominguez is eager to continue those studies, but isn't sure where. He has been accepted to three schools already: George Washington University in Washington, D.C.; Academy of Art University in San Francisco; and Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California. He's waiting to see what other offers he receives before he chooses.

"Education is important to me," said Dominguez. "Everyone in my family is urging me to finish school. I do not want to let any of my family members down after everything they have done for me. There is no way I can pay them back but by finishing school."

Sports Brief

■ NBA

The Eastern Conference Finals kicks off in the Philips Arena as the number one seed, Atlanta Hawks host LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers at 5:30 P.M. PST.

■ NHL

Game three of the Eastern Conference Finals will be in the Amalie Arena. Second seed Tampa Bay Lighting are returning to Florida after thumping the number one seed New York Rangers at the Madison Square Garden 6-2 on Monday. The series is now 1-1 and the Lighting will be looking to take their first lead, and take one step closer of ending the 11 year drought since winning their last Stanley Cup.

■ MLB

The Los Angeles Dodgers will be looking to increase their first place lead over their National League West Division rivals, the San Francisco Giants by defeating them on the road at the AT&T Park at 7:15 P.M. The Los Angeles Angels will be traveling to Toronto, Canada to face the Blue Jays. The Angels will be looking to keep pace with the American League West Division leaders, the Houston Astros.

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Rolling in the deep

PHOTOS BY
ALVIN CUADRA

WORDS BY
ZAIDA DIAZ

Valley's Mainstage hosted a night filled with a variety of dance styles last weekend for Valley's Dance Program's two-act spring dance production, "Making Waves," which cost $14 for the general public and $10 for Monarchs.

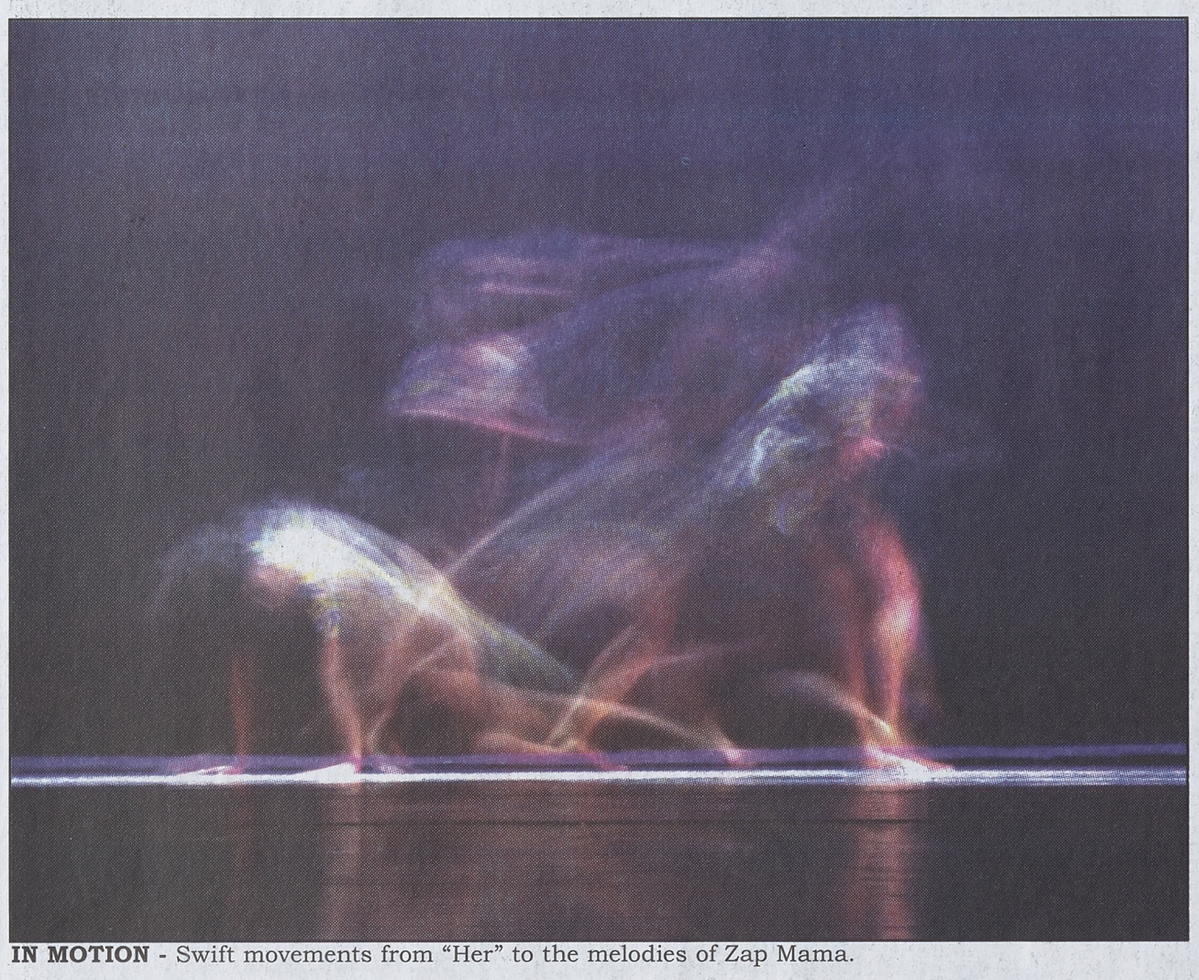
Artistic directors and producers Liz Casebolt and Geordie Wright welcomed guests for the two-hour program consisting of six sets per act. It was made up of contemporary and interpretive dances, which were choreographed by faculty, students and guest artists.

Some of the most memorable performances included "Her," "Blank Canvas," "Erector," "La Yi Yi Yi" and "The Alice."

MOVE TOGETHER - "Making Waves" opened with "Her," a group dance choreographed by Maya Zellman.

WORLD OF COLOR - Color popping performance "Erector" ended the first act.

FIERCE - Christie Baarns performing "Going Home" choreographed by Kiha Lee.



IN MOTION - Swift movements from "Her" to the melodies of Zap Mama.

ERECTOR - The particular synchronized performance choreographed by Carla Lubow.